



File Code \_\_\_\_\_ (OR130-03-12)

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## News Release

Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District  
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Date: July 7, 2003

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### *For Immediate Release*

#### **Habitat Improvement Project Planned For Bighorn Sheep in Vulcan Mountain Area**

**Spokane**—Declining populations of bighorn sheep in the Vulcan Mountain area are the subject of a habitat enhancement proposal by the Spokane District of the Bureau of Land Management. The habitat improvement project involves thinning of understory and overstory trees over an area encompassing about 225 acres. About one million board feet of timber will be harvested through a thinning prescription. Other project proposals include manual site preparation, prescribed burning, and fencing. Due to steep slopes in the area, most of the harvesting will be done by helicopter.

The project involves coordination between wildlife, forestry, and fuels specialists among other staff of the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and the Washington Department of Wildlife.

Kevin Devitt, Field Manager of the Spokane BLM Border Resource Area, says “Bighorn sheep populations are expected to increase after their habitat is improved in the Vulcan Mountain area.” Devitt explains that the dense condition of forested stands in the Vulcan Mountain area does not support the habitat needs of bighorn sheep. Opening the stands will provide additional forage and cover for sheep, as well as deer, and will complement vegetative treatments being done by other agencies and local landowners.

An environmental assessment (EA) describing the bighorn sheep habitat improvement project is available for public review and comment until July 25. Copies of the assessment will be posted at some businesses in the Curlew area, as well as the Curlew Post Office. In addition, the EA will be posted on the Spokane BLM District website at [www.or.blm.gov/spokane](http://www.or.blm.gov/spokane). Copies will also be mailed on request.

For further information about the bighorn sheep enhancement project, contact the Spokane BLM District at 1103 North Fancher, Spokane, WA or telephone (509) 536-1200.

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